

## ORGANIZATION

Read at the International Brotherhood of Free Thought Congress at Rome, Sept. 20th, 1904, by Dr. J. B. Wilson, President of the National Liberal Party of the United States of America.

As long as the majority of human beings are mental slaves, thought can not be secure in its freedom. Only the few realize that their own freedom depends upon the freedom of the majority.

The evolution of liberty is a process of slow growth. At spasmodic intervals, Liberals act collectively and revolt; but with the end of revolution comes the end of organization.

Such liberty as we now possess is not the result of humanly planned action, but rather the result of the work and sacrifice and genius of a few great and noble individuals, far separated from each other.

Each nation has developed one or more great Liberal leaders, who, as the catalysts, whose individual efforts have not only stimulated the cause of freedom in their respective countries, but whose influence has extended to other nations, and which in rare cases has become world-wide.

If individual labors of leading Free-thinkers have wrought such great effects, how long as a man of genius and legislative influence, like wholly in her organization. She lives happily by her inspired words, by her great parades, and by the pomp and pride of authority.

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would build a great international Free-thought organization, see to it that its foundations are firm and strong.

So it is that interest is kept alive and that it does not lapse into indifference and discouragement. I have had four years of practical official experience, standing at the head of the leading Liberal organizations of my country, and I find general solicitation of membership to be a fall failure.

It proved a failure also with my predecessors in office. I believe it useless to attempt to effect a purely Free-thought organization of numerical importance. In every station of life, the believer may be organized, because he will submit to be led. The Free-thinker is directly different in this respect. It is further useless because the great majority of Free-thinkers are not Free-thinkers in degree. Like every other class we have an infinite variety of adherents. Some have just a faint glimmer of the light, others are religiously free, but have not thrown off their political and racial superstitions. Some place great value upon their own liberty, but are indifferent to the liberty of others. These are only Free-thinkers in name, and should not be organized. Besides they should not be eligible in a great international organization, for they are only the danger to the future of the country. It could plainly see, was the lack of unanimity, arising from the presence of so many conflicting elements.

There are a great many wealthy educated and influential Free-thinkers, who, for divers well known reasons, will not affiliate with the active work of the organization. Owing, therefore, to the many existing species of Free-thinkers, would advise a deliberate exclusiveness on the part of this organization. It will prove more substantial and will be honored and respected in the end.

I do not know of a single Free-thought society composed of such a discriminate membership that has lived.

It is my experience and observation that whatever work is to be done, either as individuals, or as an organized body, must be done by the enthusiastic, active few.

The man who is fearless, who works for the advancement of mankind simply because his heart is in the work, and he only among Liberals may be organized.

This does not imply that the great mass of Liberals are indifferent to the cause. Far from it. Many patriots, who, called upon, readily contribute to the cause, and who, in the work, feel a warm interest in the work of the leaders, but they can not be organized in organization, and it is useless to attempt it.

Therefore, let this body remain as now is, a representative body, an assembly of generals and blades, organized independently of the ranks. Let us not aim in the beginning at American strength, but rather at the United States. Let us bring together our best scientific and representative thinkers from all countries, and let them keep in touch with each other of the world over.

This body of such intellectual diversity, that ambitious, energetic and worthy Liberals will seek it of their own accord, and let none such be lacking. The most honorable and useful member often is the man who does things, rather than the man who knows things. The man who plans rather than the man who theorizes.

The objects of organization should be the discussion of the most important and practical plans of propaganda outlined. Not only the subject of education but that of the press should be taken up, and also means employed by which we may gain admission to the columns of the press. The methods of "The American Press Association" might be looked into with profit.

I wish to add in conclusion that this National Liberal Party of the United States sends hearty greetings to this great Congress. I have sent me here as its representative, because it believes that this Congress marks an epoch in the history and progress of mankind.

It is, in deed, the most important event that has taken place since the Reformation, surpassing even the conquests of nations, and the rise and fall of empires, it affects all nations of men.

We are bearing the wolf of superstition in his very den. The possibility of such a meeting is the triumph of centuries of human struggle, persecution and sacrifice. But a few years ago, such a Congress would have been the occasion of riot and slaughter.

This Congress is the victory of a million martyrs who have suffered at the hands of Rome, of great souls who have bravely went to the stake, or who starved and pined their lives away in dungeons gloom.

It is the victory of that long line of Pagan orators, moralists and lawmakers, whose wealth of wisdom, the modern world still takes as its standard, and whose lives are today re-echoing in the Eternal City.

It is the victory of Hypatia and Copernicus, of Galileo and Bruno, of Vanini and Voltaire and of every brave and loving soul, since their day, who have given the thoughts of their brains to make men free.

NOTE.  
I wish to say the papers of Mr. Watts and myself were not read at the Congress, but were presented to the Secretary, and entered in the full report, which will be printed in French.

As the proceedings were conducted entirely in French, but few could have understood us, and we noticed that the audience grew impatient when it could not understand, we chose not to address it. I was given the opportunity and could have addressed the Congress if I had desired.

No English speaking delegate addressed the Congress, except Mr. Henderson of London, who spoke in French. Mr. Conway was to have delivered his address in English, but the speaker who proceeded him, Hector Denis of Belgium, took so much of that session's time that it was too late for Conway to attempt making his address. Denis spoke for an hour and a quarter, and every one on it. Had Conway gotten to deliver his very important address, he would have every one out as he speaks very slowly with a poor voice, and his speech was nearly as long as that of Denis. Mr. Conway spoke in English for five minutes, and then Robertson of England, occupying fifteen minutes. The Italians and French make very short addresses, and I think this was the danger to the future of the country. It could plainly see, was the lack of unanimity, arising from the presence of so many conflicting elements.

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## COING OUT

OFF ALL DELINQUENT SUBSCRIBERS FROM THE BLADE.

I have just heard by phone, Sunday, December 5, a determination from Mr. Hughes that has done me a great deal of good. Of these there are about 2,500 who are no paid up.

Mr. Hughes says that just as soon as he can get time he is going to take a day to take off the list all unpaid subscribers.

He says that the unpaid ones are always those who make the most complaint about changing their addresses, when they move, and make most complaints of other kinds.

I am glad to hear this from Mr. Hughes because an employee was to realize that I am writing to be read by men who are willing to beat the printer out of his pay, and I don't want to write for that kind of people.

The Blade will, therefore, soon have only about 1,500 names on the list, but they will all be paid up subscribers, and if it does not amount to much of an income there will not be much outgo, and I hope Mr. Hughes can make a living on his job work.

I want him to cut off the unpaid subscribers, and then when he says the number is so small that he cannot longer afford to print it, I want him to stop and the Blade will stop. I don't know what the limit would be, but I would like to see it for 500 people who appreciate the paper enough to pay for it to that to write for 5,000 who are willing to beat Mr. Hughes out of his money.

I have, before this had an aspiration to have a large subscription list for the Blade and wanted Mr. Hughes make all the sacrifice he could to keep a large list, but now I have changed my mind, and I don't want Mr. Hughes to lose a single dollar by sending the paper to any man or woman who does not pay for it.

I get all sorts of mean and insulting letters from people who claim to "take" this paper, but, hereafter, I want to have the satisfaction of knowing that the man who has the paper sent to him by Mr. Hughes, and then writes me a mean letter about it, will at least have had to pay for his paper.

OLD DOWIE

Went to Florida for his Wife's Health.

Old "Ellis" Dowie came through Lexington, a few days since, in an elegant private car, on the way to Florida, for his wife's health, and he managed it so that even the train people scarcely knew that Dowie was aboard.

The old scamp claims that he can miraculously cure the sick by just laying his hands on him, but his wife knows him. He is an old liar and the same, who got sick at the Florida just as other rich people do, and he never had any more to do with the dead quiet because it was a dead give away.

The Bible says plainly that the sick can be cured by prayer. James 5: 14 says: "The prayer of faith shall save the sick and the Lord shall raise him up again." But, all the same, when preachers and priests, from the Pope down to the lowest, get sick they don't feel any time praying to get well, but they send for the doctor just as soon as anybody else does.

When Leo X. was sick, or when Pius IX. was sick, they did not, and do not, report what the praying people say about their getting well but tell what the doctors say and Christians do not rely upon prayers to cure them any more than infidels do.

EXCITEMENT

Over Football Game With Yale Kids Princeton Professor.

Princeton, N. J., Nov. 28.—Rev. Dr. William M. Paxton, Princeton University and Seminary, died today in his sixty-third year of paralysis brought on by over-exhaustion at the Yale-Princeton football game of November 12th.

One of the many gross absurdities of our age is football. It is unreasonable to suppose that young men could do justice to their studies in an excitement that would kill a professor. In Lexington, I have heard that any one of the papers alluded to Dean Lee, the most fashionable preacher now in Lexington, getting through the service of his church and going to the foot-ball game in the evening, but on Sunday morning, one of the papers between one of the professors and a student caused by the professor's having been killed by a professional.

Some time since a game of football was going on in Lexington and a man walked onto the ground and a player pulled out a pistol and shot him in the back, and he heard that anything was done to the player.

recognize that these Christians are tyrants and more naturally and justly oppose them than our revolutionary fathers opposed the tyranny of England, and just in the ratio that Christians try to force their opinions upon the people will the liberty-loving people of this country oppose the church so that the effort of the preachers to close the saloons on Sunday in the most effectual way in the world to make others keep the saloons open on Sunday.

I am opposed to liquor drinking. I have seen the evils of liquor drinking among infidels and Christians.

Many of the leaders of infidelity are liquor drinkers, and some of them disillusions.

I know the advantage of total abstinence from liquor from having abstained from it myself and from having had all my family to do the same.

Yet I cannot co-operate with the preachers in Lexington in their efforts to close the saloons on Sunday, because as usual preachers in forcing religious laws upon the people in a greater evil than the liquor drinker.

People who want to proceed intelligently and fairly must try to stop liquor crimes, should, in the first place, stop the preachers from their efforts to close the saloons on Sunday, because common sense and common justice teach that it is right to sell liquor upon the same terms as any other of the week, it is right to sell it upon any other day.

KENTUCKY CHRISTIAN

Kills His Wife and His Four Children and Then Kills Himself, on Account of the Drouth.

My wife who read the account in the papers that she forgot the man's name and the name of the place in Kentucky, but the other facts are as follows:

A man in this State, who was a fairly well to do farmer, was suffering greatly in mind because his cattle were dying for the want of water, consequent upon the greatest drouth Kentucky has ever known.

He was a Christian and went out and prayed for rain, as the Bible, in the book of James, tells him plainly what to do. He prayed, and his prayer was answered. But that statement in the whole Bible is a lie and all intelligent people know it is a lie, and they know as well as they know anything that it is a lie, and they pray for anybody has any effect upon the weather.

The rain did not come, in answer to the man's prayer, and he went into his house and found his wife reading the Bible.

The man got his pistol and killed his wife and then killed all four of his children, and then killed himself by the side of his wife and put her arm around his neck and, in this position, shot and killed himself and they were so found.

This man and woman trusted their Bible and found that it lied to them. The drouth continues as I write, at least so that they will have no stock water, and the poor innocent cattle will die from suffering, but I am an infidel and my cattle have plenty of water, and I can make them fatten upon my wheat, but enough to save it.

My wife and my son used tobacco. I am opposed to it, but I get a part of my living from it. Tobacco, next to whiskey, is the worst enemy of the land. We have raised the finest crop of it I ever saw, and the slight rain we have had puts it "in case" splendidly to be handled. At the same time the papers report very great damage to the wheat crop.

I do not use tobacco and though I work in every thing else on the farm, I never, in any way assist in the management of the tobacco.

If the Christian religion is true God manages the weather, but he does it so that he helps the tobacco crop that is an injury to every one who uses it and at the same time ruins the wheat crop generally, and kills the domestic animals for the want of water, making the poor innocent cattle and I am an atheist and nobody in my house prays for rain or for anything else so far as I know.

When next Thanksgiving time comes we will be called upon to thank God for all the blessings of the year when the fact is that good Christian men are killing their wives and children and themselves because of the miseries that God is sending upon them.

Can it be possible, in the light of facts like these, that Christians can really believe that God answers prayer?

They do not believe it and preachers would not preach it if they did not make money out of it.

A CATHOLIC THEIF.  
A man named Watters, treasurer of the Catholic Union in Baltimore, stole \$581.00 from that institution.

Did Irish washwomen and railroad workers and saloon keepers will pay it all back.

Charles Moore  
Editor

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Office of publication—155 W. Short St., Lexington, Kentucky.

Entered at the post office at Lexington, Ky., as Second Class Matter.

Address all communications to BLUE GRASS BLADE, P. O. BOX, 393, Lexington, Kentucky.

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